The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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GREED GOUGES PUBLIC WHILE USING IT TO CHAIN WORKERS TO THEIR TASK

It was the people's proud boast, at one time in this country, that the constitution shielded the individual or the smallest group in their rights, regardless of the opposition's power and influence.

Today a group of workers can be handcuffed to their labor on the ground that the public is entitled to service and that an extensive strike is a defiance of government.

These cunning arguments are urged by men who consider themselves statesmen, and by editorial parrots who label their sophistry "government by law."

The public's new attitude can be appreciated by recalling that when Pinkerton detectives were used against the Homestead strikers, 30 years ago, the protest was nation wide and legislatures made it unlawful to import these thugs into their states.

Today these states discuss making strikes unlawful and permit the same brand of detectives to be deputized as "peace officers" to break strikes.

This deadening of a social conscience, warping of public opinion and indifference to wrong has been accomplished by publicity of the same kind used by a three-ring circus or a chewing gum magnate.

To say it was accomplished by education would libel the noblest of professions.

Blatant and illogical, the handcuffers appeal to the very public they exploit and gouge. They trustify factories, raise prices, restrict output, swell the army of unemployed and blame the "law of supply and demand."

When unfair conditions force a group of workers to quit employment the employer is kept in the background while "can't-strike" advocates shriek that these workers are "defying the government" or are "attempting to coerce the public."

This system was perfected in 1919 when miners were forced on a nation-wide strike.

Receiving instructions from a delegate convention, officers of the miners presented their demands to the coal owners at Buffalo and were repulsed. The coal owners refused to make a counter proposition or offer any suggestion that could be used as a basis for compromise.

The Buffalo performance was duplicated a few days later at Philadelphia. Then the miners struck to enforce their demands.

These facts were ignored by the various opinion-molding machines that fanned the populace to a blind fury against the miners.

This frenzy made it possible for one of the most infamous injunctions ever issued against labor.

The system used against the miners is the system used by "can't-strike" advocates. They talk about the "rights of the public" when they want cheap labor chained to its task. At all other times they consider the public so much loot. Their record of plunder, gouge and profiteering on the public is a sordid one.

When the struggle for human liberty in this age is written, what an opportunity for some word painter to tell the story of an exploited public being used by coarse, unsatisfied greed in its attempt to enslave the workers.

The subject is worthy of the satire of Dickens or the smashing epochs of Carlyle.

And of equal interest will be the story of labor's successful resistance against the attempt to establish serfdom in the first country in the world dedicated to human liberty.

EARLY POLITICAL ACTIVITY FOR WAGE EARNERS URGED

Washington, March 18.—Local non-partisan political campaign committees are called upon to immediately prepare for the forthcoming primaries in a proclamation issued by the executive committee of the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee.

Where local committees dissolved after the last election the local movement is urged to re-establish same.

Emphasis is placed upon the necessity for nominating candidates where there appears in the primaries of neither party a candidate considered representative of the people's interests.

"Wherever necessary," says the proclamation, "labor should place candidates in the field. This should be done where the candidates on both dominant party tickets are unfriendly to our cause."

"No genuine constructive measure has been enacted by congress since March 4, 1919. Every means used to secure legislation that will aid in relieving unemployment has been met with rebuff.

"The present deplorable conditions of our country, artificially made, and in which labor and the farmers have been deflated until it hurts, has been ignored by congress. Only appeals for subsidies for ship owners, railroads and other interests find listeners. To all legislation in the interest of the people congress is deaf.

"Every state federation of labor, every city central body should create non-partisan political campaign committees. Every local should appoint committees to co-operate with the state and central bodies.

"The campaign should not be among the organized workers alone, but should be extended so that the truth will be known to all just-minded citizens.

"Since the armistice the most flagrant and malignant denunciations of the hopes and aspirations of the masses of our people has been made.

"The campaign in the primaries and in the fall elections offers opportunities which may not come again in a decade to redress wrongs and attain justice. It is, therefore, important that not a moment should be lost in launching a most active campaign that will bring about the election of men and women who will restore to our people the rights taken from them since fighting ceased in the world war. All are urged to be up and doing."

LABOR OPPOSES SUBSIDY BILL; STRIKEBREAKING IS FEATURE

Washington, March 18.—Provision for breaking strikes of seamen and to imprison alien seamen while their vessels are in harbor, are two features of the proposed ship subsidy bill, according to a statement by the A. F. of L. joint legislative conference, composed of more than 40 trade union representatives.

The trade unionists warn workers not to accept the promises of individual congressmen or other government officials that this is not the purpose of the law. "The law will have to be enforced as it ultimately reads," it is stated.

"With reference to the merchant marine naval reserve section it provides for a body who are to be used in case of strikes or lockouts. It can have no other purpose because the proposed law does not provide any naval training for this proposed merchant marine naval reserve. It also repeals the safety sections of the seamen's act, as far as this force is concerned. In addition to the fact that no training is provided the section provides that men may volunteer, or by order, be transferred from the navy into the merchant marine naval reserve. This merchant marine naval reserve is to take its orders from the secretary of the navy, and the orders are to be according to rules and regulations prescribed by the navy department together with the shipping board. **A refusal on the part of any reservist to go in such merchant vessel he is ordered to go in will subject such reservist to a naval prison.**

"As the section is drawn it will not only prevent the building up of an efficient personnel for the merchant service, but when the facts become known to the young men throughout the country, it will make it very difficult, indeed, to recruit men for the navy. **If the men are to join the navy and a strike-breaking force at the same time, they will surely hesitate about joining. This section is so bad that it can't even be cured by amendments.**

"The immigration section of this bill is so drawn that the alien seamen will be held prisoners on board of the vessels in the harbors of the United States, and this will apply not only to foreign vessels but to aliens on American vessels. It, therefore, repeals, the freedom sections of the seamen's act and it will restore the differential against the United States in seamen's wages that always existed prior to the passage of the seamen's act. The shipping board and some members of congress to whose attention this has been called, claim that there is no such intention, and express further the opinion that there will be no difficulty in getting it properly amended.

"With reference to these promises it should be remembered that promises made by individual congressmen, or by any bureau or department of the government, or amendments submitted, even if passed by one of the houses, is of no consequence whatever. The law will have to be enforced as it ultimately reads."

WOOLEN TRUST'S PROFITS REACH ABNORMAL POINT

New York, March 18.—With wages going down and millions of wage earners idle in the greatest depression this country has ever experienced, the American woolen company coolly announces that its profits last year were $9,192,621.73. In 1920, another year of depression, the profits totalled $6,855,259.16.

These staggering profits, at a time when hunger and want are abroad in the land, have been continuous since the beginning of the world war. In 1918 the trust increased its clear profits 316 per cent over 1914. The net increase in common stock earnings was 531 per cent.

Last year's profits of more than nine million dollars comes near equalling the trust's record year of 1919, when clear profits were $10,779,804. In 1918 the earnings per share on common stock was $13.86, a total of $5,572,527.

In his report on last year's immense profits, President Wood attempts to create the impression that the woolen trust had its difficulties. He said last year was "one of the most trying in the company's experience."

It is quite possible, however, that the trust officials can survive their troubles, in view of their fabulous income at a time when wages are cut, millions are unemployed, and farmers and small business men are being ruined.

"Hopelessly Messed Coal Industry" Is Caused by Profit-Hungry Owners

Dubois, Pa., March 18.—A call to the public to join with the miners in forcing out the facts of the "hopelessly messed coal industry," through federal action has been issued by the convention of district No. 2, United Mine Workers of America.

The convention which represented 45,000 mine workers of central Pennsylvania, urged that the national government be induced to publish all the facts as the first step in a fundamental reorganization of the industry. It was declared that "the necessity of public ownership of coal mines and the economic and human wastes of private ownership" have been demonstrated.

The national convention of the United Mine Workers of America was congratulated for setting up the nationalization research committee "to transform the miners' policy of nationalization from a vague aspiration into a fighting program."

In their call to the public, the miners say:

"The whole structure of economic and industrial life in America is built up on coal and the miners who dig coal. The national wealth in coal, which is both a heritage from the past and trust for the future, has been mismanaged and squandered by every kind of ingenious waste.

"The hunger for quick profits has left its millions of tons beyond recovery under ground. The stream of mined coal for which the miners get less than a bare living, passes through the hands of endless speculators and middlemen, each of whom takes a toll and adds to the price before it reaches the consumer.

"The supply of coal to the market is jerky because of bad management and speculation, over-production alternates with coal shortage, the consumer takes coal when it can get it and pays what he must; the miner is lucky if he gets 200 days' work in the year.

"What are the true tests for the coal industry? They are three: A steady supply of coal to the consumer at reasonable cost, a good American life for the miners, the intelligent protection of the interests of future generations. The present ownership and management of the coal industry meets none of these tests.

"The public's grievances are high prices and irregular supply; the miners' grievances are low wages and irregularity of work, to say nothing of unnecessary accidents and needlessly back-breaking kinds of labor, such as car pushing. Slowly the feeling that has long been in the minds of the miners is growing in the mind of the public—that the coal industry as now owned and operated is a hopeless mess, a basic public utility run and ruined by a group of financiers interested only in private profit and therefore inevitably careless of the public as well as of the living conditions and even the lives of the miners.

"The grievances of the public arise out of the same mess that spawns the miners' grievances. Now, just as the miners are turning their angry rebellion into a constructive policy, responding to the experience of human beings who dig coal, so our nationalization research committee calls on the public to turn its rebellion against waste and high prices into a constructive program.

"It is time for the consumers to stop kicking and think out a plan. Let our miners' indictment of the mismanagement of coal find loud echo in the consumers' indictment of the cost of coal. The consumers are still doing more kicking than thinking. To give definiteness to their kick, we offer them our committee's first report on 'The Mismanagement of Coal.' We ask them to go further.

"We miners have a policy, the policy of nationalization, which we believe as good for the public as for us. We ask the public to turn from kicking and help us put our policy through. But if the public still doubts, if they are not yet ready to join us on nationalization, as they are bound, sooner or later to do, then we ask them to join with us now in the demand for compulsory information on coal through a national fact-finding, fact-publishing agency."

UNIONISM BENEFITS SOCIETY; UNORGANIZED DO NOTHING

Baltimore, March 18.—Organized labor is "altogether responsible" for better work conditions and unorganized labor has done "absolutely nothing" declared Archbishop Michael J. Curley in an address before the convention of the Maryland State and District of Columbia federation of labor, in this city.

The clergyman plainly indicated where he stood on the question of union labor, which he insisted was responsible for gains made by the workers. He also indicated that he had little regard for workers who enjoyed these benefits, but did not assist in maintaining them.

"Union labor," he said, "is absolutely responsible for the better conditions under which work is being done today. Union labor has brought about the reforms in regard to child labor and woman labor. Unions are true friends of humanity and no menace, as they have been called. They have rendered splendid and effective service for the betterment of mankind.

"What has unorganized labor done? Absolutely nothing.

"Speaking for myself, I believe that labor has the right to share in the profits of an enterprise when the profits are large enough to justify it, and I believe that in some cases, although it is a delicate matter to adjust, labor ought to be permitted to take part in the regulation of enterprise. By labor I mean union labor."

HOWAT CONTEMPT PLEA DENIED BY HIGH COURT

Washington, March 18. — The United States supreme court has ruled that Kansas courts may issue injunctions to enforce the "can't-strike" law of that state.

The court dismissed the plea of Alexander Howat for relief from contempt of court sentence. He was jailed because he refused to obey the order of a Kansas district court to appear before the court of industrial relations and not to call a miners' strike.

In his appeal to the United States supreme court Howat's attorneys questioned the legality of the Kansas law.

Chief Justice Taft could only see the disobedience of an injunction judge's order and refused to consider the constitutionality of the Kansas law.

The court, in effect, took this position: Injunctions must be obeyed and it is not for the plaintiff to decide whether the injunction denies him constitutional rights as this is of less importance than the violation of a court's order.

Want One-Half Million More Than Road's Value

Harrison, Ark., March 18.—The managers of the Missouri and North Arkansas railroad can hardly be classed as financial jugglers or railroad wreckers, but they seem to be headed that way. These managers cut wages without complying with the conference clause of the transportation act. A strike was followed by strikebreakers and now the road is wrecked.

The managers are in Washington pleading with the interstate commerce commission for a loan of $3,500,000.

The road is in the hands of a receiver and the court has ordered the property sold on April 10 next for not less than $2,000,000.

Reduce Dividends Suggests Unionist

Manchester, N. H., March 18.—Let the five trustees who control 3,700 stockholders of the Amoskeag company reduce dividends in order to meet competition they talk about, rather than cut workers' wages, suggests James Starr, vice president of the United Textile Workers of America.

"Twelve years ago Amoskeag paid 12 per cent on a share of stock," said the unionist. "Eleven years ago they called in this stock and gave five shares for one—two shares preferred stock paying 4½ per cent and three shares common stock at 3 per cent.

"During some of the war years they had three dividend periods per year, as follows: Four per cent, 5 per cent, 6 per cent, cash dividend on common stock, making a 36 per cent dividend on common and 9 per cent on preferred, increasing from 12 per cent to 45 per cent in 12 years and all during this period contending with southern competition.

"The workers have helped to make the profits in the textile industry, and they should not now be called upon to bear the brunt of the return to so-called normalcy. According to a financial statement of the Amoskeag company made on May 28, 1921, their profit and loss surplus was $40,455,399, which would indicate that southern competition was quite a profitable affair after all."

REFUSE TO ACCEPT GAG ON SHIP SUBSIDY BILL

Washington, March 18.—"You can't deliver us bound and gagged in favor of your iniquitous ship subsidy bill," is the substance of a letter to the Democratic members of the shipping board by Congressmen Edwin L. Davis and Rufus Hardy, members of the marine and fisheries committee of the house. The two law makers were asked to withhold their final judgment on the ship subsidy bill until hearings are completed.

In declining this suggestion, the congressmen say they will not be parties to rushing this legislation through congress. They declare that if the bill is thoroughly understood it will be overwhelmingly rejected by both parties.

"You may tell Chairman Lasker (of the shipping board) that we are not so easily ensnared as some people he has come in contact with, and that we respectfully refuse to be 'bound and gagged' while he and the rest of you advocates of this iniquitous ship subsidy bill industriously disseminate your deceptive propaganda and lull the people and the congress to sleep while you complete the job," the law makers said.

"It is generally understood that Mr. Lasker was appointed chairman of the shipping board because of very shrewd and valuable political service rendered during the last campaign; he certainly could not be appointed because of any knowledge of shipping matters. His appointment, from a political standpoint, has been fully justified, because he has demonstrated beyond question that he is a master politician.

"After months of laborious effort he has succeeded in committing the president to an elaborate and expensive ship subsidy program, a position never taken by a previous president.

"More than that, Mr. Lasker has enmeshed all the members of the shipping board in this program. This is especially significant in view of the fact that until now perhaps no high government official in this country has openly and boldly advocated a ship subsidy since the emphatic rejection of such suggestions many years ago."

BARBERS ORGANIZED.

Indianapolis, March 18.—Officers of the Journeymen Barbers' International union report that new locals have been formed at Watsonville and Turlock, Cal.

Reaction Wide Awake In Nation's Capital

Washington, March 18.—The following statement by President Gompers indicates the activity of reaction in the nation's capital, and its menace to labor:

"A desperate attempt is being made by 'ambulance chasing' lawyers to defeat the longshoremen's compensation bill, known as S. 745.

"The Hawaiian sugar planters are secretly at work preparing to have the coolie bill taken up by the senate.

"The effort to shift the burden of taxation to the masses through the sales tax is not dead by any means.

"While members of the committee on reorganization of the government departments say that no meeting has been held since April 6, it was authoritatively announced that the report by Mr. Brown will be submitted to congress soon. There is, however, always the danger that an attempt may be made to slip through the sales tax on the reorganization scheme.

"Reports will be made on the bill amending the retirement act, S. 3147, providing for a labor board in the coal industry similar to the labor board in the railroad industry must be considered.

"S. 3193 provides for the refund of penalties imposed on violators of the Lever act. There is nothing in the bill that will recompense the miners for persecutions they suffered through the Lever act. It is a vicious bill."

RAPS U. S. LAND POLICY.

Washington, March 18.—Young men can not expect to own farms unless they inherit them, said Prof. F. H. Newell, consulting engineer of the United States reclamation service, in a speech in this city.

He said that the present economic conditions are such that the young man is usually only a laborer or tenant, and that this is true in spite of the fact that one-half of the area of the United States is unused and waiting to be developed. He declared that stable government depends upon a sound land policy and that this should be worked out by the state and national governments.

RAISE CONVICTS' PAY.

Albany, N. Y., March 18.—The state legislature has passed a bill which authorizes the state superintendent of prisons, with the approval of the governor, to establish a system of compensation for prison labor. Now the convicts are paid only a few cents a day for their work.

Railroad Is Wrecked by Law-Defying Owners

Atlanta, Ga., March 18.—The law-defying, union smashing managers of the Atlanta, Birmingham & Atlantic railroad have about reached the end of their rope and this 400-mile system is headed for the scrap heap. The road's latest troubles have been caused by mortgage foreclosure proceedings filed in federal court.

More than a year ago the managers disregarded the Cummins-Esch law and ordered that wages be reduced. The employes protested to the railroad labor board, which ordered the company to reinstate wages and make no further attempt to reduce same until the law governing such cases was compiled with.

A trust company then appealed to Federal Judge Sibley for a receivership for the road. The court granted the request. The workers charge that there was collusion between the trust company and the managers, as the indebtedness on which the receivership proceedings were based were not due and they were secured by sufficient collateral.

Following the receivership petition, B. L. Bugg, president of the road, resigned that office and was appointed receiver. The wage cuts were again restored and the railroad labor board was given to understand that it has no jurisdiction, as the road is in the hands of the federal court.

The employes then struck. Later they called the court's attention to their action, that was prompted by gross disregard of the transportation act, which provides that wages shall not be reduced until a hearing is had.

The court acknowledged that the order was improperly granted and offered to afford the employes a hearing. They asked what would be their status at the conclusion of the hearing and were informed by the receiver—who is an agent of the court—that a restoration of the wage scale would not benefit them, but would only benefit those who have taken their places.

The workers refused to assume the burden of litigation that would only benefit strikebreakers.

Since then the workers have been on strike. Only recently in a public memorial they charged that an attorney for the receiver, who was appointed by the United States department of justice, aided in raiding their headquarters while their officers were cited to appear before a grand jury to answer fictitious charges.

In urging Attorney General Daugherty to investigate this raid, the strikers suggest that other things should be inquired into. These include:

"Were the provisions of the transportation act intended to operate for the control of labor only, or were they also to control the employers?

"If they were to control employers equally, with labor, can a railroad company evade this power by a collusive receivership?"

Anti-Free Speech Law Killed in Kentucky

Frankfort, Ky., March 18.—Organized labor's agitation against the vicious "syndicalism and sedition" law has resulted in the legislature repealing those sections which denied American guarantees. The law now provides for punishment of those who advocate open rebellion against the government.

As originally passed any town constable could disperse a trade union meeting if some mill owner told him that it was against section 6 of the law which prohibited any person "by speech, writing or otherwise, to arouse, incite or fix or attempt to arouse, incite or fix enmity, discord or strife or ill feeling between classes or persons."

By amending the act the legislature indicates an end to the "100 per cent American" frenzy that was used a short time ago to stifle every form of protest.

44-HOUR WEEK ESTABLISHED.

Tacoma, Wash., March 18.—"The 44-hour week has been definitely established," declared John McParland, president of the International Typographical union, in reviewing the shorter work week movement of that organization in a speech in this city.

"Strike benefits," he said, "are now being paid to only 7,000 men out of the 40,000 normally employed in the commercial plants of the United States and Canada. These members are receiving approximately $87 a month, the highest strike benefits ever paid by any union. There is now $1,000,000 in the general strike fund of the International Typographical union. In 10 months the fund has received $7,802,491 and paid out $6,864,784. Strike assessments were cut some time ago from 10 per cent to 7 per cent and are now down to 5 per cent."

VOLUNTARY STAGE CENSOR.

New York, March 18.—To eliminate political censorship of the stage, a voluntary jury system has been launched by dramatists, managers, producers, actors and vice crusaders at a meeting in this city. A jury will be drawn from a panel of 300 persons, whose chief qualification shall be "good citizenship and common sense."

CROOKED COTTON BROKERS.

New York, March 18.—In an investigation of "bucket shop" methods among brokers in this city, President A. W. Gresham of the American cotton exchange admitted that there has been much crooked dealing in the past by former members and that many charges have been made that cheating of investors still flourishes.

CAN AVOID ACCIDENTS.

Olympia, Wash., March 18.—One-half of the industrial accidents in this state are preventable, declares Director Edward Clifford, of the department of labor and industries. It is proposed to start a safety-first campaign.

MINERS BLAMED, AS USUAL.

New York, March 18.—A clear misrepresentation is made by S. D. Warriner, president of the Lehigh coal and navigation company, in explaining last year's profits of $5,394,224.

The public can not expect low coal prices until the wages of miners, which were set by the United States anthracite coal commission, are lowered, said the coal owner, whose views are in direct conflict with the anthracite commission, which made this statement in connection with its award:

"The commission declines to commit itself to an award which justly could be considered as an encouragement to the so-called 'vicious spiral' in prices. This award, while providing improved conditions for the employes, offers no justification for any advance in retail prices of coal, but, on the other hand, is consistent with a decline in prices. The award has not passed a great burden along to the consumer of coal."

This plain declaration by a governmental wage board that prices could be lowered, was ignored by the coal owners, who immediately raised prices, and now declare, as does President Warriner, that wages must be reduced if prices are to be lowered.

FOOD PRICES STAND.

Washington, March 18.—According to the bureau of labor statistics the retail cost of food remained practically stationary between January 15 and February 15.

Seven cities reported decreases, but on investigation it is found that the decrease averaged less than 1 per cent. Kansas City led with a 4 per cent decrease. Little Rock, Pittsburgh, Providence and Charleston all reported a 1 per cent decrease, and Louisville and Jacksonville less than five-tenths of 1 per cent.

Of the cities reporting increases Minneapolis and St. Paul lead with 2 per cent. In Baltimore, Indianapolis, Milwaukee and St. Louis there was an increase of 1 per cent; in Detroit the increase was five-tenths of 1 per cent.

DEFEAT COSSACK BILL.

Frankfort, Ky., March 18.—The rules committee of the house of representatives has killed a bill which would establish the cossack system in this state. The bill was urged by the mine operators' association and other anti-union organizations.

These forces developed a new angle in the fight for cossacks by inducing women's organizations to support the measure on the ground that it would result in "the protection of women in isolated districts."

BIG MOVIE PROFITS.

New York, March 18.—The motion picture company known as the Famous Players-Lasky corporation had clear profits last year of $4,695,499 after deducting taxes, all charges and dividends on preferred stock.

BEGGARLY WAGES BY LAW.

Boston, March 18.—Organized workers are using a recent wages-by-law award to prove their point that wage setting by this method is less effective than trade unionism.

Under the minimum wage law boards are set up in various industries to recommend wages for women to the minimum wage commission. A brush makers' wage board has just recommended that women workers of ordinary ability with one year's experience shall receive not less than $14.40 a week. Apprentices are to be paid $9.60 a week for the first six months and not less than $12 a week during the second six months. As the three rates are based on a 48-hour week the hourly wages will be 30, 25 and 20 cents, respectively.

HUGE AUTO PROFITS.

New York, March 18.—The industrial depression has had no effect on the Studebaker corporation, makers of high-priced automobiles, according to its financial report for last year, which has just been issued.

Profits were $16,400,000, the largest in its history. This profit permits a 7 per cent dividend on preferred stock and 16½ per cent dividend on common stock after all charges have been met, large salaries for management paid and huge amounts put away in the various funds that so conveniently conceal larger profits.

OVER-SEA TELEPHONY.

New York, March 18.—The steamship America, 370 miles at sea, on her way to this port, was "picked up" by the first radio telephone installed on the top floor of the Telephone building in this city.

According to engineers present it is the beginning of a new era in over-sea telephony, although the handicap of outside "interference" must be overcome. In the new experiment it is stated that when the air was clear of outside "interference" the voice over the radio telephone came as clear as a voice over the ordinary land wire—sometimes clearer.

LUMBER PRICES TO STAY.

Chicago, March 18.—There is no lumber shortage, but prices will not be reduced, said J. H. Burton, president of the American wholesale lumber association.

This prediction is made at a time when wages in the lumber industry have been slashed below prewar rates, and hours have been lengthened.

Lumber barons in the northwest formed a company "union" known as the loyal legion of loggers and lumbermen, to assist them in their anti-union campaign.

GOMPERS AIDS STRIKERS.

Providence, R. I., March 18.—President Gompers is touring the textile district in aid of textile workers who are striking against a 20 per cent wage cut and the installation of the 54-hour week.

In a speech in this city President Gompers declared that textile workers knew, if other people did not, that about a year ago wages in this industry were cut 22½ per cent. "They knew," he said, "that the cost of living had not been reduced when that cut was put into effect. Today a further reduction of 20 per cent was offered, mill owners thinking that because the first cut was accepted with little more than a murmur, the second would be accepted in actual silence. In addition to the new wage reduction, mill owners propose to extend the 44-hour week to 54-hour week."

DENOUNCE ALLEN LAW.

Topeka, Kans., March 18.—The Kansas industrial relations court was condemned by a state convention of taxpayers, representing business men, professional men, farmers and wage workers held in this city. The convention declared:

"We favor the abolition of the state highway commission and the industrial court. We pledge our unqualified support in electing officials that will assist in carrying out a program as outlined."

CLAY STRIKE IS ENDED.

Peoria, Ill., March 18.—After a two-months' strike, clay workers employed in the Carter yards are again at work. The agreement includes the union shop, eight-hour day, check-off system and a 46-cent minimum.

Wide Awake Employers Oppose "Can't-Strike"

Boston, March 18.—The Kansas "can't-strike" law, with several additions, was introduced in the state legislature, but the authors have made the mistake of being logical, and applying the same handcuff process to employers that is intended for labor.

The result has been a hollow sound as far as employers are concerned, and it is predicted that the bill is dead, unless the employers can be "protected."

At a hearing by a legislative committee, labor was prepared to fight, but to the workers' surprise no voice was raised in favor of the bill. The chairman of the committee asked for a rising vote to test the sentiment and the attorney for the manufacturers' association voted with the unionists.

It is stated that the employers are "fundamentally" in accord with the bill, but that there are too many restrictions against the employer.

Or in other words, the employer favors handcuffing labor to its task, but the law must not interfere with the employer.

This is the kind of "fundamentals" that the boss has in mind when he favors a "can't-strike" law drawn along "scientific lines."

HOOPER SAVES RAILROADS.

Chicago, March 18.—Vice Chairman Hooper of the railroad labor board decided against shop employes who insist that railroads that violated the Cummins-Esch act have no standing before the board and that the wage demands of these roads should not be considered.

The Erie, the Indiana Harbor belt and the New York Central railroads are involved. They have contracted their repair work and the contractors are paying lower wages than the scale set for railroad shop men by the board.

TEXTILE BOSSES EVADE PUBLICITY

Providence, R. I., March 18.—Textile strikers are attempting to force employers to prove at a public hearing that their wage-cutting policy is necessary.

The workers have tied up this industry in Rhode Island because of a 20 per cent wage cut and an attempt to re-establish the 54-hour week.

"At a public hearing the workers will show that not only is the 20 per cent cut unjustified, but, on the other hand, we will show that part, if not all, of the 22½ per cent robbery of a year ago should be returned to the workers," said President McMahon of the United Textile Workers.

"The statement of the manufacturers that, owing to southern competition they can not run their mills, is absurd. Why not submit to public opinion at a public hearing. Surely they have nothing to fear of revealing business secrets in this instance. Labor is ready to show and produce facts bearing upon this so-called competition."

The bosses' attempt to hold their war-time profits, while reducing the workers, has met with unexpected resistance. It is claimed that the strikers, most of whom were unorganized before the strike, are 80 per cent foreign-born, chiefly Italians, Poles, Portuguese, and French-Canadians. They have been brought into this section through stimulated immigration of the textile barons, who believed they were immune from trade unionism.

HUGE PHONE PROFITS.

New York, March 18.—Net profits of $13,244,543.19 were made in 1921 by the New York telephone company. There was no deflation for stockholders, who were paid 8 per cent on their holdings, or double last year's profits.

COAL OWNERS REPUDIATE PLEDGE

New York, March 18.—"Members of the Pittsburgh coal producers' association have taken upon themselves a grave responsibility," says the New York World.

"Two years ago, in common with other soft coal operators in the so-called central competitive field, they agreed with the unionized miners to meet them in conference prior to April 1, 1922, to consider the making of a new agreement on wages and working conditions in substitution for the one now expiring. They now refuse to abide by this pledge and they refuse in the face of the pleadings of Secretary of Labor Davis 'in the name of common sense' to get together with the miners and other operators and save the country from a costly strike.

"Repudiation of labor agreements is something in which employers more than labor unions cannot afford to indulge. It is likely to become a particularly dangerous business for owners and operators of coal mines. Private possession of so limited and vital a store of natural wealth is heavily affected with a public interest. Its responsibility is not confined to God Almighty, as the late Mr. Baer had it, but extends to the government and people of the nation, and it will not be permitted to dodge that responsibility.

"If these rebellious coal operators of western Pennsylvania are well advised they will beat a hasty retreat from setting an example to union labor of contract repudiation and come into line with Secretary Davis' efforts to promote peace and continued industry in the central coal fields. Their possession of the mines is less a matter of will to do as they please than they suppose."